Indians going abroad for work

2777. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) the approximate number of Indians going abroad for work each year, both skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers, separately;

(b) the services provided by Government both in India and abroad for the safety and security of the Indian workers going abroad/working abroad; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect Indian job seekers from dubious agencies in India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The Government does not maintain such specific data. However, the number of persons granted emigration clearance for employment abroad during the last five years are as follows:

2005	5.49 lakhs
2004	4.75 lakhs
2003	4.66 lakhs
2002	3.68 lakhs
2001	2.79 lakhs

(b) Persons with Emigration Check Required (ECR) endorsed passports are required to obtain emigration clearance if they are going abroad for employment. It effectively ensures that the workers are not exploited by unscrupulous agents/foreign employers. With regard to workers employed abroad, the concerned Indian Mission/Post closely monitors the situation and takes up complaints of workers with the relevant local authorities/ foreign sponsors with a view to expediting the process of law and obtaining due justice.

(c) Sporadic complaints are received about cheating of Indian workers by unregistered recruiting agents. On receipt of such complaints, the concerned Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) are directed to file complaints/ FIRs against such unregistered recruiting agents for violation of Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983. Foreign employers who violate the terms of the employment are blacklisted and barred from further recruitment.